THE

CRISIS.

NUMBER LXVII. *To be continued Weekly,*
DURING THE PRESENT BLOODY CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

SATURDAY, *April* 27, 1776, [Price Two-pence Halfpenny

For the CRISIS.

THE law is the great rule in every country, at leaſt in every free country, by which private property is aſcertained, and the public good, which is the great end of all laws, is ſecured; and the religious obſervance of this rule, is what alone makes the difference between *good* law and *none*. The terror and ſanctity of the laws, are ſhewn by the execution of them; and to a *contempt* of the laws, or to a direct diſpenſing with them, have been owing, all the ſhocks and *revolutions*, that we have, for many ages ſuſtained in *England*.

I ſpeak here of thoſe laws which have a direct and known tendency to ſecure to us what we have, and to preſerve to us what we are: a free people, are kept ſo, by no other means, but an equal diſtribution of property; every man who has a ſhare of *property*, having an equal ſhare of *power*; and the firſt ſeeds of anarchy, which generally ends in tyranny, are produced from hence, that ſome are ungovernably rich, and many more miſerably poor; that is, ſome are poſſeſſed of all the means of oppreſſion, and others want all the means of ſelf defence.

What

What a progreſs we have lately made in *England*, towards ſuch a bleſſed ſtate of confuſion and miſery, by the credulity of the people; ſuffering all in the hands, and to the mercy of a ſet of baſe-born villains, miſchievouſly truſted by the ſovereign with a power to undo them, is too manifeſt, from the woeful condition we are in: the ruin is general, and every man has the miſerable conſolation to ſee his country undone, by a conſpiracy of miniſters, ſupported by the prince upon the throne.

Theſe monſters ſtand ſingle in the creation, they have ſerved the people, as Satan ſerved Job: and ſo far the Devil is injured, by any alalogy we can make between him and them.

How far the people ought to carry their reſentment, it may not perhaps be ſafe for me to pronounce; the meaſure of it muſt be determined by circumſtances; ſtill, keen reſentment ſhould be ſhewn, and ſome puniſhment, or puniſhments, inflicted; the dignity, the intereſt, and the liberty of this nation is at ſtake; mercy then, at ſuch a time, would be cruelty indeed.

To this ſpirit of jealouſy and revenge, the *Roman* common wealth was formerly beholden for the long preſervation of its liberty; and ſince, the *Venetian* commonwealth owes its preſervation to the ſame ſpirit; and liberty will not ſubſiſt long where this ſpirit is not exerted: for if any crimes againſt the public may be committed with impunity, men will be tempted to commit the greateſt of all, I mean that of making themſelves maſters of the ſtate; *Cæſar* thought he might do what he had ſeen *Marius* and *Sylly* do before him, and ſo enſlave his country; whereas had they been hanged, he would perhaps never have attempted it.

I have mentioned theſe examples to prove, that nations ſhould be quick in their reſentments, and ſevere in their judgments: and no nation was ever more abuſed than this has been of late by the Sovereign, and a worthleſs tribe of *minions*; ſo no nation ever could, with more juſtice or greater ſecurity, take its full vengeance. Sometimes indeed the greatneſs and popularity of the offenders make ſtrict juſtice unadviſeable, becauſe *unſafe*; but now it is not ſo; we may at preſent, load every gallows in England with deteſted miniſters and their

their cratures, without the aſſiſtance of a ſheriff's guard, or ſo much as a ſigh from an old woman, tho' accuſtomed to ſhed tears at the untimely demiſe of a common felon. A ſtring of thoſe wretches well truſſed up, beſides the diverting ſight, would be a cheap ſacrifice to the manes of liberty and trade.

But, ſome will ſay, when did you ſee rogues covered with wealth brought to the axe or the gallows? I own the example is rare, more to the ſhame of this nation, which has had ſuch rich temptations, and ſuch frequent opportunities; we have public guilt in abundance, protected by party and by money. Faction on one ſide, and riches on the other, have, as it were, made a lane for the great criminals to eſcape. But all theſe eſcapes, which are indeed, our reproach, cannot give any ground to fear a preſent one.

This nation has formerly been bought and ſold; but arts were uſed to blind the peoples eyes, and the effects of treachery were not immediately felt; and we know that the reſentment of the vulgar never follows from their underſtanding, or their reflection, but from their feeling: a pickpocket may tickle a plain fellows ear, till he has got his purſe; but if he feels it going, he will knock the thief down.

We have felt our pockets picked, and we know who have done it; vengeance awaits them.

I am told, ſome of them have the face to pretend that they ought not to be put to death; but an honeſt legiſlature would effectually convince them, that this their partiality to themſelves is groundleſs: all their hopes of ſafety muſt conſiſt in their money; and without queſtion, they will try to make the wages of their villainy protect their villainy: but I cannot ſee how any ſums can ſave them; for as they have robbed and cheated all men, except their accomplices, ſo all men are concerned to ſee juſtice done to themſelves; and if the ordinary channels of juſtice could be ſtopped by bags of money, or by partnerſhip in original guilt, the inraged, and abuſed people, might be prompted by their upermoſt paſſion, and having their reſentment hightened by diſappointment, might it is to be feared, have recourſe to extraordinary ways: ways that are often ſucceſsful and juſtifiable.

Here

Here are no parties in this caſe to diſguiſe truth, and obſtruct juſtice; the calamity is general, and ſo is the reſentment: all are ſufferers; all will be proſecutors. The cry of juſtice is loud and united; if it be balked, I can propheſy no good from ſo cruel an omiſſion.

If this mighty, this deſtructive guilt, were to find impunity, nothing remains, but that every villain of a daring or voracious ſpirit may grow a great rogue, in order to be a great man: when a people can no longer expect redreſs of public and heavy evils, nor ſatisfaction for public and bitter injuries, hedious is the proſpect they have before them. If they will tamely ſuffer a fall from plenty to beggery, they may ſoon expect another, and a worſe, from that to ſlavery.

I have before my eyes a brave and honeſt people, lovers of trade and induſtery, free of their money and well deſerving of the legiſlature, paſſionate for liberty, haters of chains; but deluded, drained of their money and abuſed beyond patience, beyond expreſſion, by mean ſharpers that ſwagger in the plunder of their country.

Where therefore there is ſo much capacity, and ſo many good diſpoſitions to help us on one ſide; ſuch loud and melancholly calls, for that help, on another ſide; and ſuch open ſuch execrable, ſuch public crimes from a third quarter; we might hope every thing from the *king and parliament*; but they alas! inſtead of our protectors, are become the infamous inſtruments of our deſtruction.

Few men have been deſperate enough to attack openly, and barefaced, the liberties of a free people. Such avowed co[illegible]rators can raraely ſucceed: the attempt would deſtroy itſelf. Even when the enterprize is begun and viſible, the end muſt be hid, or denied. It is the buſineſs and policy of traitors, ſo to diſguiſe their treaſon with plauſable names, and ſo to recommend it with popular and bewitching colours, that they themſelves ſhall be adored, while their work is deteſted, and yet carried on by thoſe that deteſt it.

Thus one nation has been ſurrendered to another, under the fair name of mutual alliance: The foretreſſes of a nation have been

given

given up, or attempted to be given up, under the frugal notion of ſaving charges to a nation; and commonwealths have been trepanned into ſlavery, by troops raiſed or encreaſed to defend them from ſlavery.

It may therefore be of ſervice to the World, to ſhew what meaſures have been taken by corrupt miniſters, to ruin and enſlave the people over whom they preſided; and to ſhew by what ſteps and gradations of miſchief nations have been undone, and conſequently what methods may be hereafter taken to undo others.

Such traitors will probably endeavour firſt to get their prince into their poſſeſſion, and like *Sejanus*, ſhut him up in a little iſland, or perhaps make him a priſoner in his court; whilſt with full range, they devour his dominions, and plunder his ſubjects. When he is thus ſecluded from the acceſs of his friends, and the knowledge of his affairs he muſt be content with ſuch miſrepreſentations as they ſhall find expedient to give him. Falſe caſes will be ſtated, to juſtify wicked counſel; and wicked counſel will be given to procure unjuſt orders. He will be made to miſtake his foes for his friends, and his friends for his foes; and to believe that his affairs are in the higheſt proſperity, when they are in the greateſt diſtreſs, and that public matters go on in the greateſt harmony, when they are in the utmoſt confuſion.

They will be ever contriving and forming wicked and dangerous projects, to make the people poor, and themſelves rich; well knowing that dominion follows property; that were there are wealth and power, there will be always crowds of ſervile dependants; and that on the contrary, poverty dejects the mind, and faſhions it for ſlavery, and renders it unequal for any generous undertaking, and incapable of oppoſing any bold uſurpation. They will ſquander away the public money in wanton preſents to minions, and their creatures of pleaſure, or of burden, or in penſions to mercenary and worthleſs men and women for evil ends and traiterous purpoſes.

They will prefer men of abandon characters, and not ſuffer a man of knowledge to come near them or enjoy a place under them. They will

will diſgrace men of virtue and redicule virtue itſelf, and laugh at public ſpirit. They will put men into employments without any regard to their abilities or qualifications, only as they contribute to their deſigns, and ſhew a ſtupid alacrity to do what they are bid. They muſt be either fools or beggars; either void of capacity to diſcover their intrigues, or of credit and inclination to diſappoint them.

They will by all practicable means of oppreſſion provoke the people to diſaffection; and then make that diſaffection an argument for new oppreſſion, for depriving them of liberties and privileges, to which they are entitled by their birth, and the laws of their country.

But if all theſe ſchemes for the ruin of the public, ſhould fail them; and a few worthy patriots of a free country ſhould prove obſtinate, in defence of their country, and reſolve to call its betrayers to a ſtrict account; there is then but one thing left, for ſuch traitors to do, that is to join with the enemy of their prince and country and ſo compleat their treaſon.

Printed and Publiſhed for the AUTHORS by T. W. SHAW, Fleet-Street, oppoſite Anderton's Coffee-Houſe, where Letters to the Publiſher will be thankfully received. New Editions of all the Numbers of this ſpirited Paper, are now ready for Sale, and *complete ſets* will be ſent to any Part of *England*, *Carriage Free*.